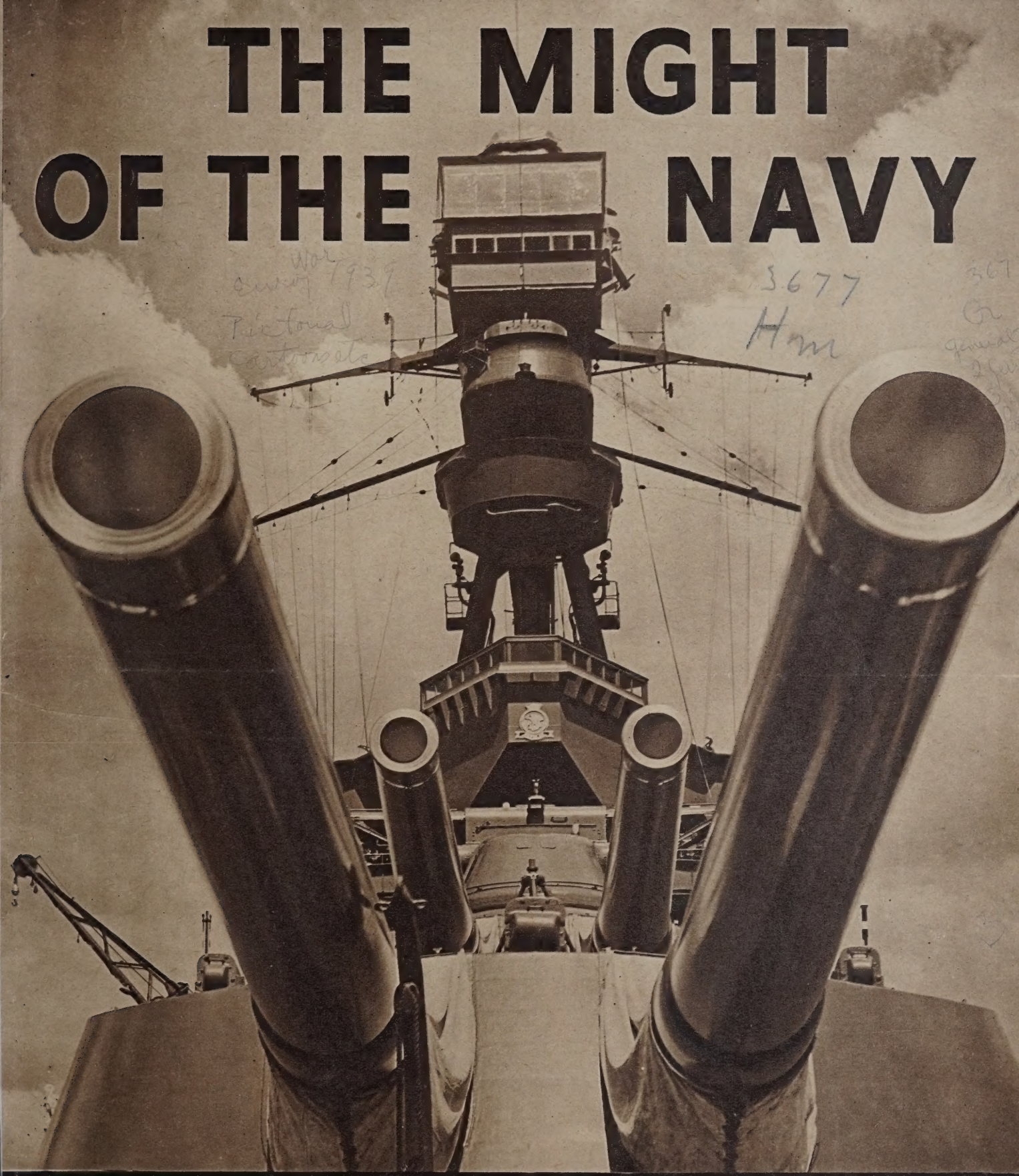
THE MIGHT OF THE NAVY



THE INVINCIBLE STRENGTH OF OUR NAVY AND THE MIGHT OF OUR SEA-POWER IS SYMBOLISED BY THESE GUNS OF H.M.S. "REPULSE," ALWAYS READY TO DEFEND OR ATTACK—THE "TEETH" OF THE BRITISH LION.

METHINKS I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation, rousing herself like a strong man after sleep and shaking her invincible locks.

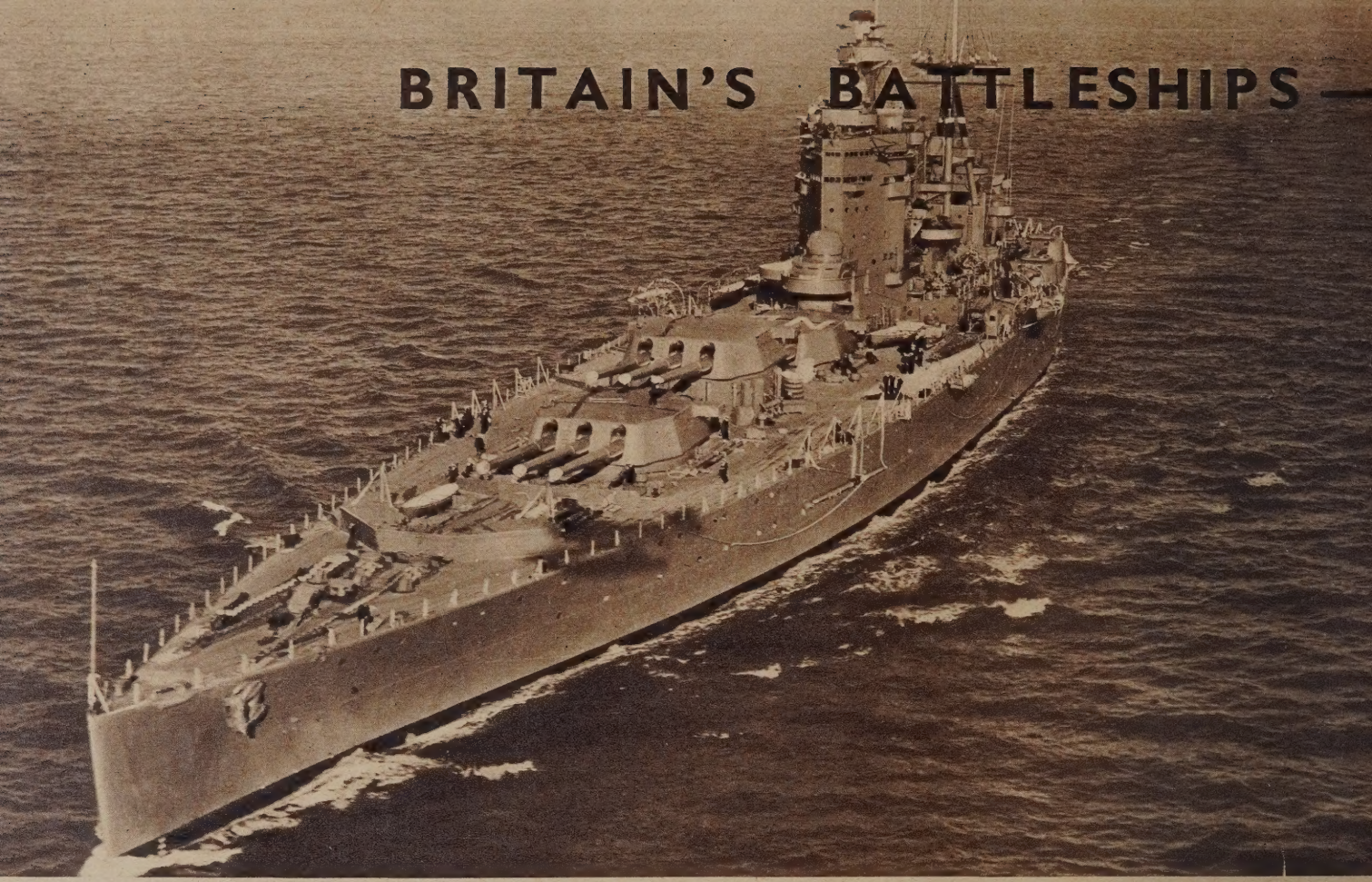
JOHN MILTON

The Royal Navy of England hath ever been its greatest defence and ornament; it is its ancient and natural strength, the floating bulwark of our island.

SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE

The King of this seafaring people is, appropriately enough, himself a sailor. He served at the Battle of Jutland in the last war, and still retains his affection for all things to do with his Navy. He is here seen inspecting Royal Marines, " sea-going soldiers," who in this war have already acquitted themselves like the men they are. Whenever there's a job to be done that's difficult to do, the Marines are there ; and, somehow, they seem always to be able to pull it off.

BRITAIN'S BATTLESHIPS



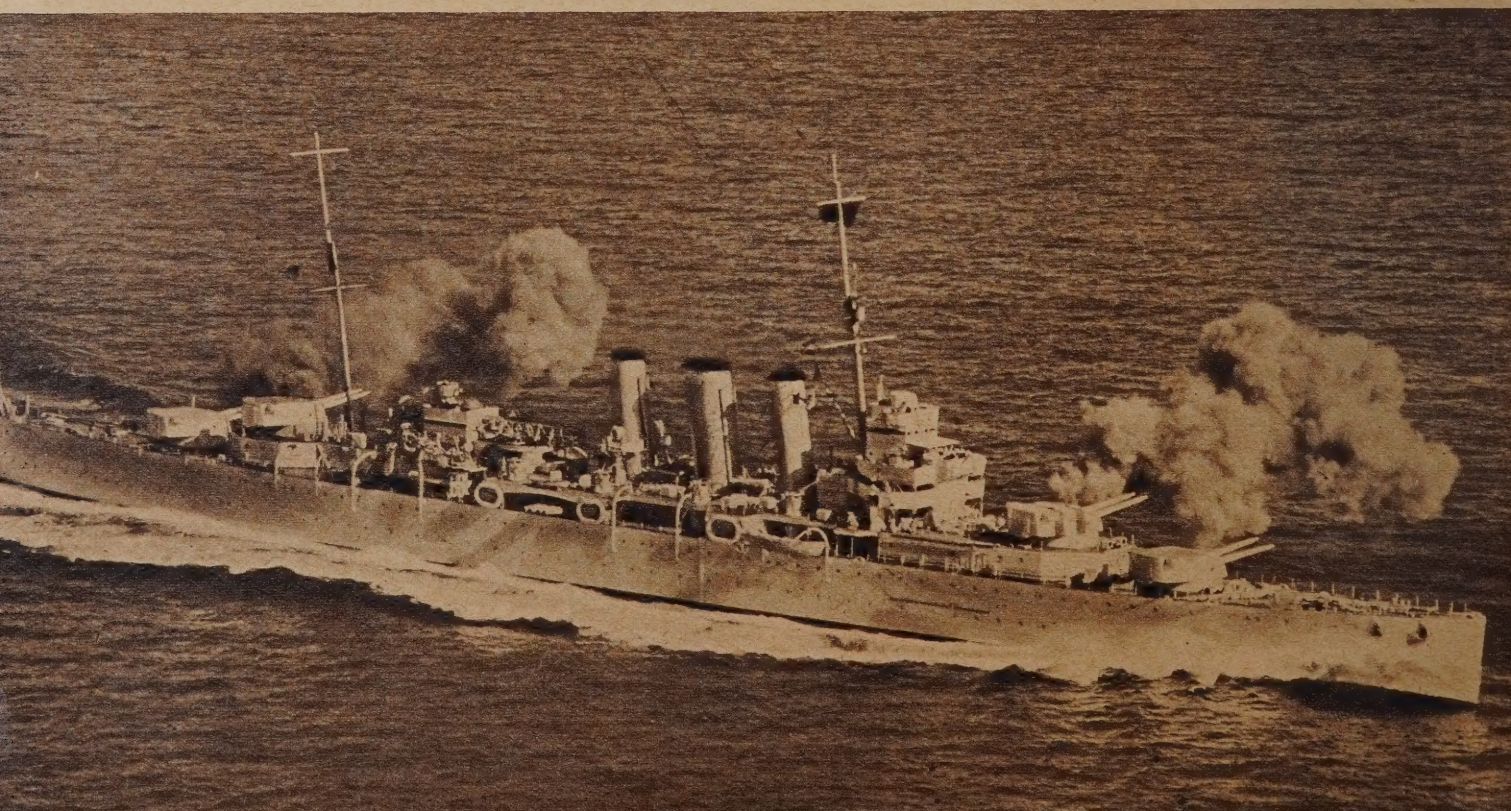
The terror of our enemies and our greatest pride, here is one of our huge 35,000 ton battleships—H.M.S. "Nelson" (above). The picture illustrates how she bristles with guns. These leviathans have not just happened. They are the direct descendants of the "wooden walls" of England—of ships which for eight centuries have guarded our shores. Below is H.M.S. "Hood"—a battlecruiser of 42,000 tons, which while carrying guns of the same calibre as battleships has a greater speed.

THE BACKBONE OF OUR NAVY

There are few more majestic sights than Britain's battleships, steaming in line ahead. Giants they look and giants they are—giants of finely tempered steel, heavy and huge but yet moving with the facile grace of thoroughbreds. They form for our Island a wall of steel, impregnable and effective. Below is H.M.S. "Queen Elizabeth" moving at high speed, as can be seen from the flags which stand out stiff in the breeze. Nine more great battleships are now being built for the Royal Navy.

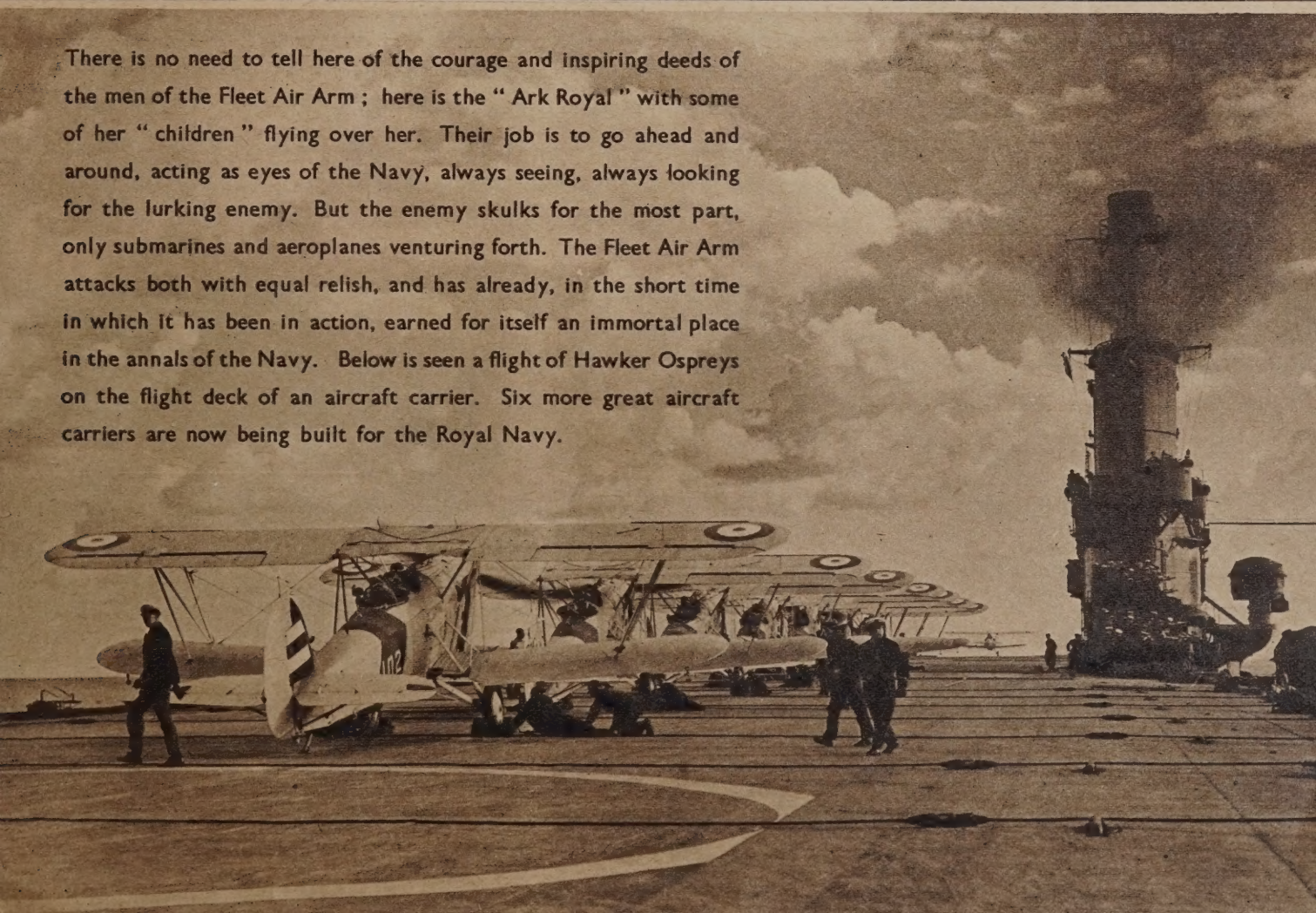
WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR NAVY

Every Briton feels a sense of personal pride in our Navy, and a sense of personal triumph in every success it gains. This is well illustrated to-day by the names which many of our cruisers carry. Often they are called after British towns or counties, and on this page are shown three such ships; above is H.M.S. "Sheffield," steaming at high speed on manœuvres, while in the background can be seen one of the County class, H.M.S. "Cornwall." Below is H.M.S. "Devonshire," firing her 8-inch guns. No wonder that, with ships such as these against them, the Germans prefer to scuttle or run, as in the last war they chose to hide in German ports. At the end, however, came the mass scuttling of the Imperial German Navy at Scapa Flow, a tradition ignobly followed to-day.



THE NAVY'S EYES

There is no need to tell here of the courage and inspiring deeds of the men of the Fleet Air Arm ; here is the " Ark Royal " with some of her " children " flying over her. Their job is to go ahead and around, acting as eyes of the Navy, always seeing, always looking for the lurking enemy. But the enemy skulks for the most part, only submarines and aeroplanes venturing forth. The Fleet Air Arm attacks both with equal relish, and has already, in the short time in which it has been in action, earned for itself an immortal place in the annals of the Navy. Below is seen a flight of Hawker Ospreys on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. Six more great aircraft carriers are now being built for the Royal Navy.

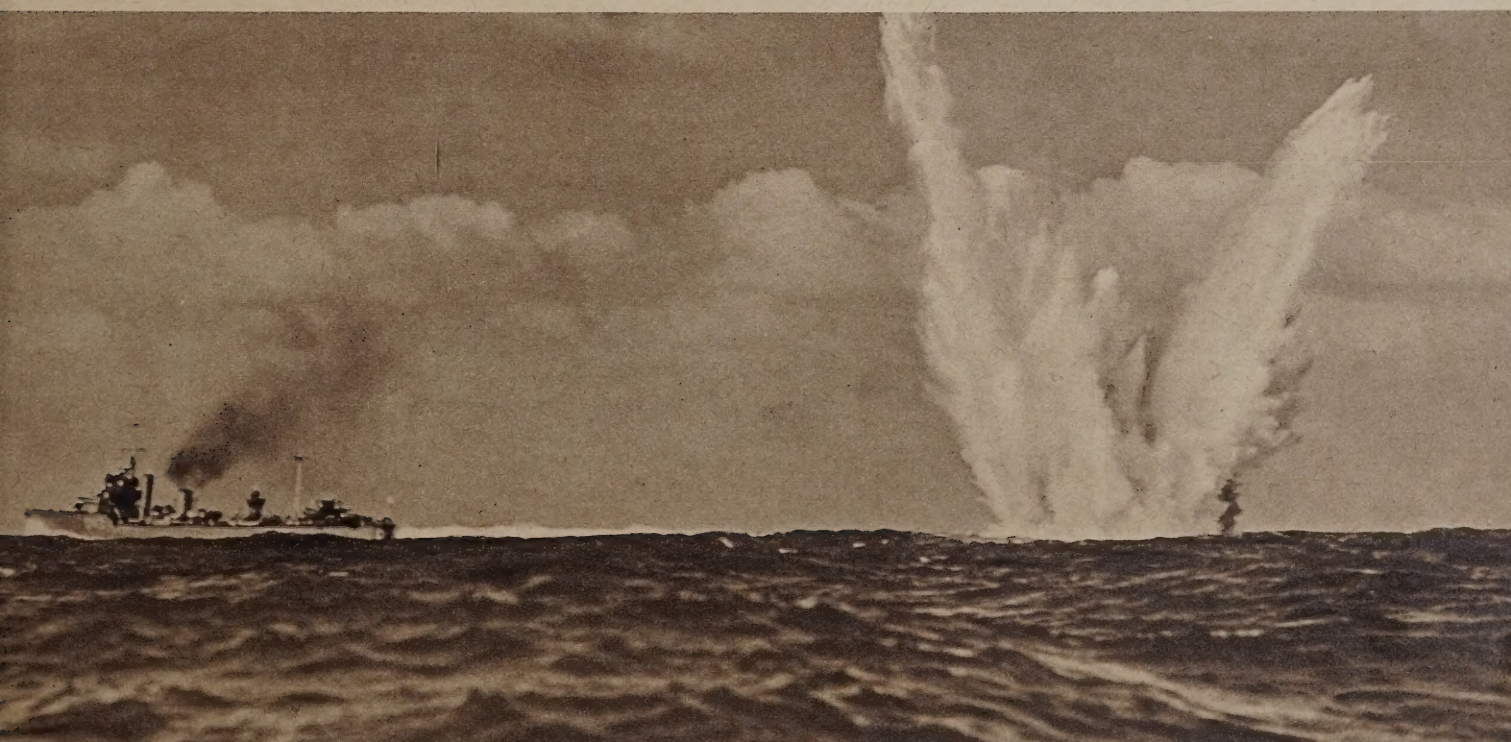


THEY FIND THEIR PREY, HUNT AND

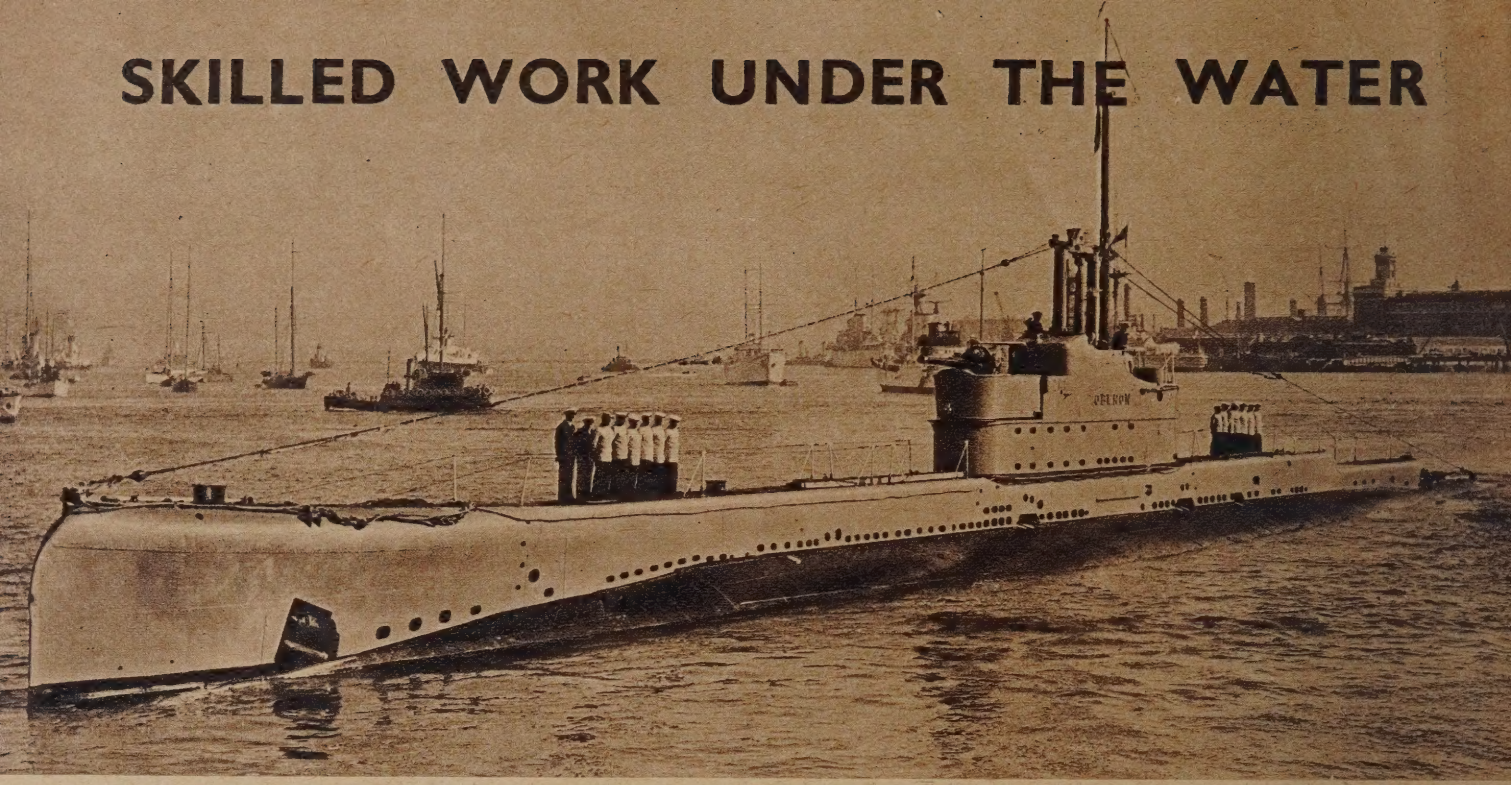
Britain's destroyer fleet, " the cavalry of the Navy," is the greatest in the world. The present war has shown that there is no limit to the work which destroyers may be called upon to do, whether it be the shattering of the enemy, the cleansing of the seas from U-boats, or the protection of commerce, British or neutral. A trip in a destroyer is never a picnic, for they move at such high speed as to be among the most uncomfortable ships afloat in bad weather. Above is one of our modern destroyers of the Tribal class, while below is another, travelling at speed, firing a torpedo in rough water.

DESTROY IT WITH SPEED AND VIGOUR

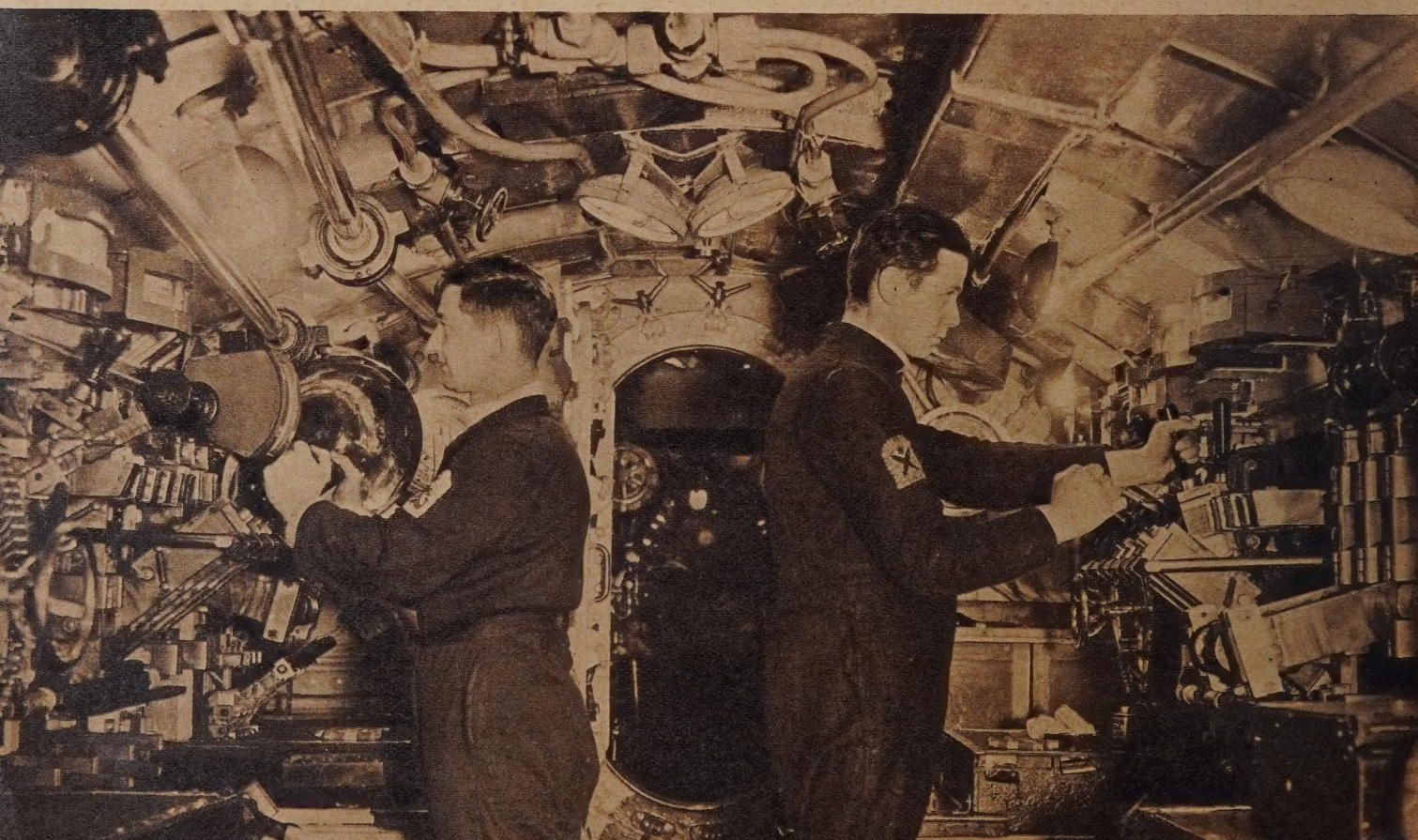
A British destroyer flotilla is seen moving out to sea on the hunt for U-boats. Relentlessly they will be chased and harried until, when they are found, depth charges blow them out of the sea beneath which they hide. There is no escape, these days, for U-boats, for they can be easily detected, and then after a series of shattering explosions, all that marks the spot is a patch of oil on the water. The lower photo shows a depth charge exploding, with H.M.S. "Wessex" steaming away. The explosion seems to reach to the skies—a graphic picture of the likely fate of a U-boat. Nothing could survive such a shock.



SKILLED WORK UNDER THE WATER



Submarine crews undertake the most hazardous and arduous duties of the Navy. They have a fine record, and their job when they set out in wartime is to attack the enemy's fleet or battleships and to patrol enemy bases. This is in direct contrast to the German idea—that U-boats should be used chiefly against harmless merchant shipping. The top picture shows H.M.S. "Oberon" on the surface, while the lower picture, taken at a submarine school of the Royal Navy, gives a fair idea of the specialised knowledge that artificers must have. A submarine contains more delicate and intricate instruments and machines to the square inch than any other craft.



PROTECTING BRITAIN'S SHORES

Let us not forget the little ships, ships that we hardly ever hear about, yet which day and night perform an essential service in protecting our shores from air and sea attack. Above are motor torpedo-boats, mounted with anti-aircraft guns, at speed off the East Coast of England. There is not much difference between her and the streamlined speed-boat which, in peacetime, hurtles on pleasure jaunts; but although small, with a small crew, they are a menace to any invader. Below is a sailor helping a mine down the slipway into the sea during the laying of a vast barrier of mines in the North Sea—mines to keep off anyone who dares to try to invade us.

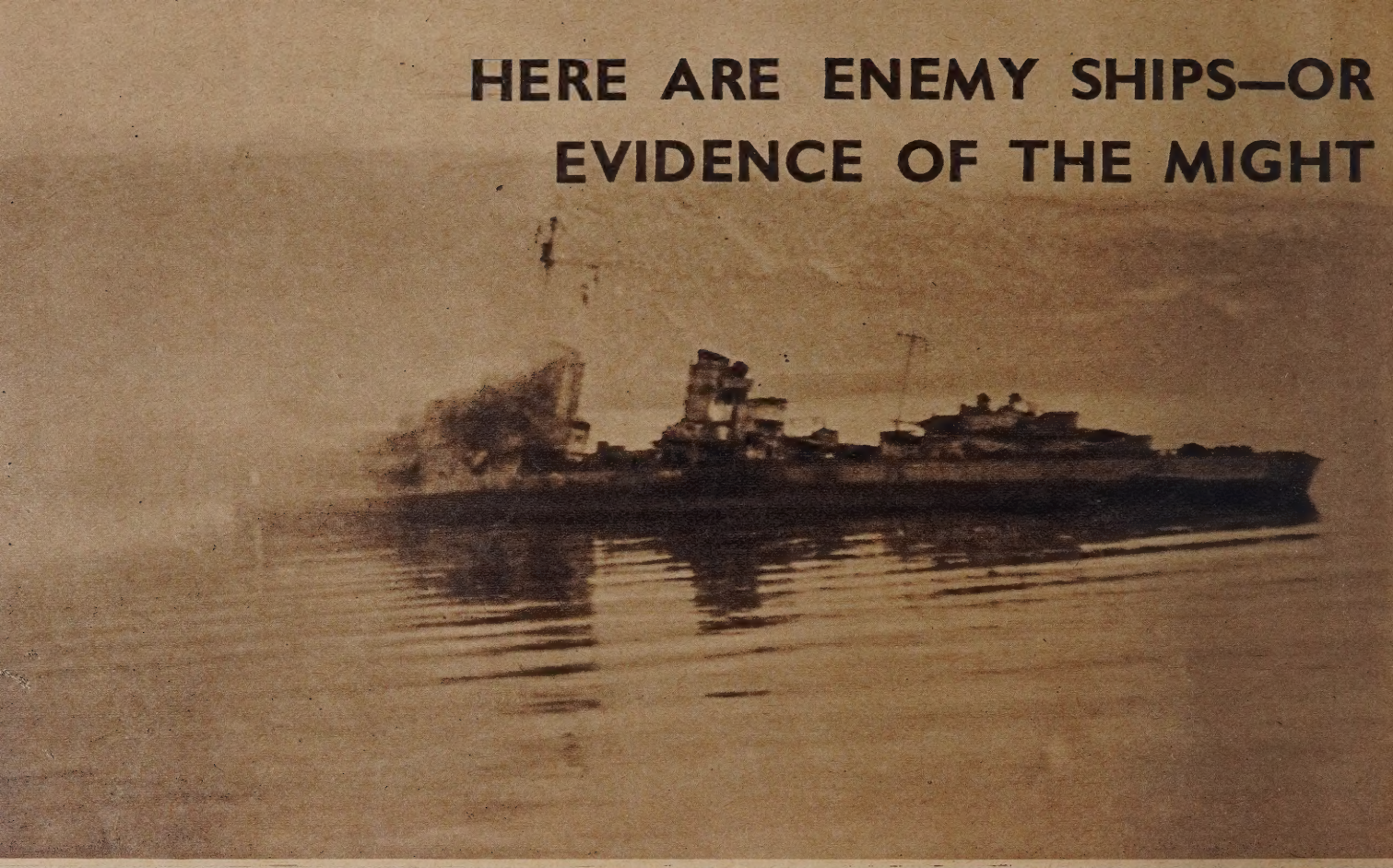
SOME OF THE BATTLE FLEET

This peaceful picture shows some of Britain's battle fleet lying at anchor, in misty sunshine. No amount of talk about the numbers or the size of our Navy can impress as much as this picture of a part of it. It is, too, symbolic of the function that Britain's fleets have always played in keeping the seas free, so that the trade of the world may go peacefully on. Below are merchant ships being shepherded across the seas in safety. British convoys have a fine record for safety in this war and, although frequently attacked, the losses of ships in convoy have been less than ·2 per cent. of those brought safely to harbour. This picture was taken from one of the escort ships.

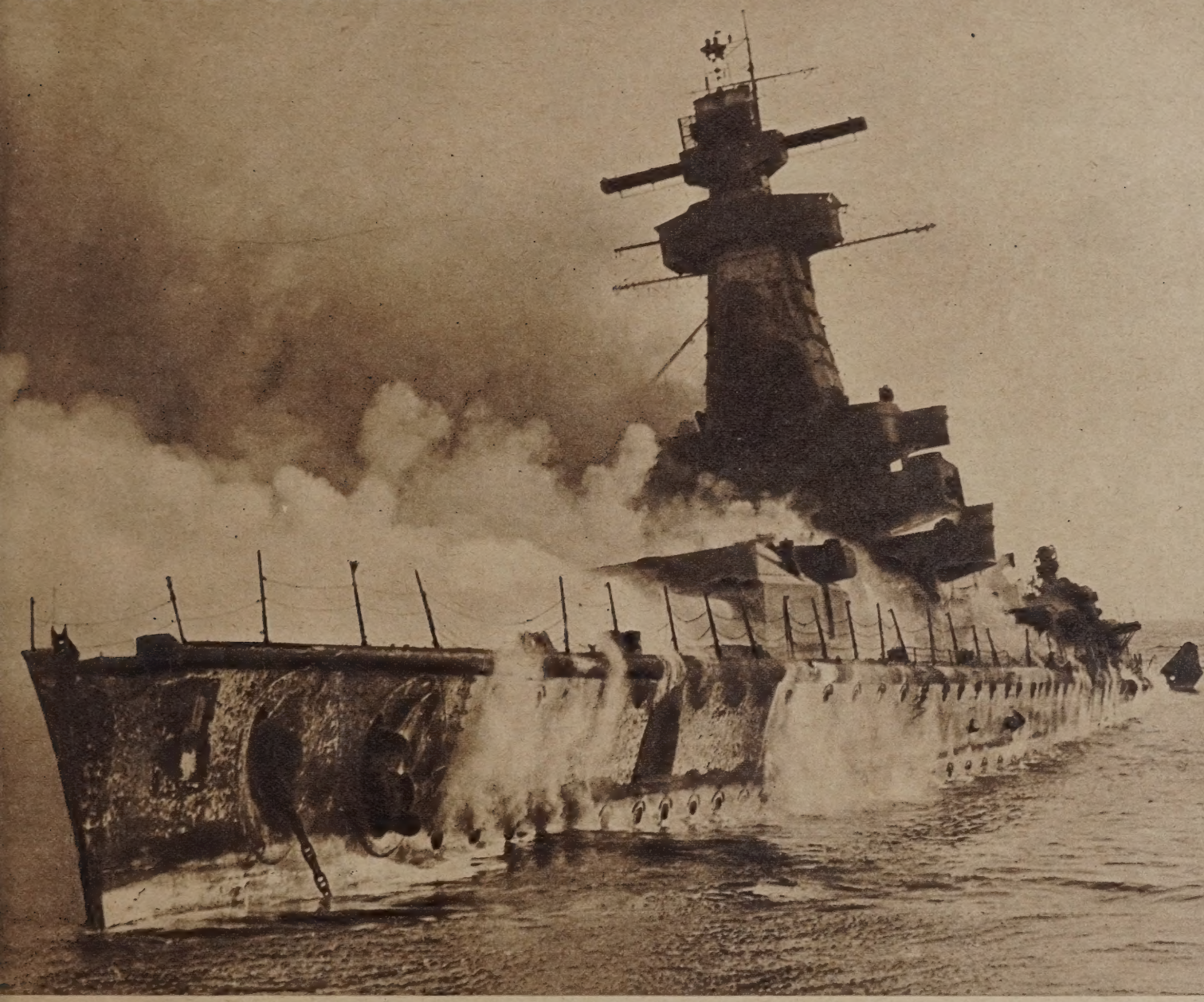
"MINES REPORTED IN THE FAIRWAY . . . "

Mine-sweeping is a dangerous, vital job; a job which is soundly and efficiently done every hour of every day. Above are mine-sweepers of the Royal Navy; ships especially designed for their task. Below are more little ships, ships of a mine-sweeping flotilla that in peacetime were fishing craft. They were photographed while at sea off the English coast while actually mine-sweeping. It is a perilous task, one from which danger is never absent, danger that has been made more acute in this war by persistent and ruthless air attack. " Mines reported in the fairway ! " —out go the mine-sweepers and clear it up, so that ordinary traffic may pass by in peace.

HERE ARE ENEMY SHIPS—OR EVIDENCE OF THE MIGHT



WHAT IS LEFT OF THEM OF THE BRITISH NAVY



In the previous pages an attempt has been made to show some of the ships that go to make up our Navy, and the work that day in and day out they have to perform. Here are examples of the way in which they do their job. It would take a book many times the size of this to illustrate every triumph they have had in this war, from the Battle of the River Plate, fought under the blazing sun of the South Atlantic, to the annihilation of a third of the German Navy in the frozen seas off Norway. No wonder that the enemy, like all other bullies, prefers to stay at home or when defeat is in sight, ignominiously scuttles his ship. Above is the " Admiral Graf Spee " in flames off Montevideo, having been out-gunned, out-manœuvred and driven into shelter by very much smaller ships. Opposite it are other pictures of German defeats; one showing a large German destroyer, abandoned and burning at Narvik after the Royal Navy had finished with it. The other picture is taken from a film reconstruction of the boarding of the " Altmark," the German prison ship. In this action the men of H.M.S. " Cossack " went over the side of the " Altmark " and rescued 299 prisoners. There is no fear for the Empire while such men serve the Royal Navy.

THE STRENGTH OF THE BRITISH NAVY

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BATTLESHIPS AND BATTLE CRUISERS: 14

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS: 5

EIGHT-INCH GUN CRUISERS: 15

OTHER CRUISERS: 44

DESTROYERS: 163

SUBMARINES: 50

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